

During its first year, the P-16 Council implemented a three-part agenda to improve education from pre-kindergarten through the baccalaureate. It supported efforts to improve teacher preparation and professional development, align P-12 and postsecondary curriculum and competency standards, and increase the college-going rate of Kentuckians.

Teacher Quality

- The Kentucky Department of Education created teacher academies in mathematics, science, and social studies.
- The Kentucky Virtual University extended access to Kentucky Department of Education mathematics and science teacher academies with Eisenhower Higher Education Grant Program funding.
- Eastern Kentucky University and the Council on Postsecondary Education co-sponsored a statewide symposium for arts and sciences and education deans to encourage institutions to make teacher education a college-wide responsibility.

Alignment

- Statewide teams of P-12 and postsecondary educators were created to reduce the high rate of postsecondary remediation in English and mathematics. Chaired by Peggy Bertelsman and Lydia Carol Gabbard, respectively, these Literacy and Mathematics Alignment Teams are setting standards for college-readiness in writing and mathematics and suggesting curricular modifications to lower the need for college remediation. The teams are seeking advice from focus groups of employers and parents organized by the Prichard Committee as well as other educators from across the state.
- Northern Kentucky University and the Council are administering a statewide high school diagnostic test in mathematics. The Kentucky Early Mathematics Testing Program was enacted in the 2000 General Assembly.
- The Kentucky Virtual High School was created to offer pre-college students greater access to challenging courses not available in their local high schools.
- A statewide conference was held to allow postsecondary institutions to share practices that help incoming undergraduates in need of developmental education stay in school and graduate.

College-Going

- The Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky Department of Education staff worked with school systems, the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, and postsecondary institutions to develop a successful \$20 million federal GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant to prepare economically disadvantaged middle and high school students for college.
- The Council on Postsecondary Education is launching a statewide public communications campaign to increase college-going rates targeted at P-12 students, their parents, and adults needing to upgrade their education.
- The Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky Department of Education began planning a summer institute to provide professional development for school guidance counselors to support their role as college coaches.

Other Initiatives

- The Teacher Data System Improvement Project, led by the KDE, with participation from the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Education Professional Standards Board, initially focused on tracking the preparation and placement of teachers. Databases of the three agencies will be connected to the greatest extent possible.
- Throughout its first year, the P-16 Council examined exemplary local P-16 initiatives involving one or more public universities, private colleges, schools, and private organizations. The P-16 Council asked the Council on Postsecondary Education to identify effective local collaborative initiatives and lay the groundwork for local P-16 councils.
- Finally, the P-16 Council kept itself abreast of similar efforts throughout the nation. It sought policy advice from The Education Trust, a Washington-based organization that works with policymakers, parents, educators, and community and business leaders to improve schools and colleges.

Future Work

- This year, the P-16 Council is focused on the development of local P-16 councils throughout the state. It also is studying the changes necessary to implement a curriculum that will prepare high school students for postsecondary education. It has enlisted a consultant from the National Association of System Heads and The Education Trust to assist in its work and to link Kentucky's effort to the national P-16 agenda.

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